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Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
Second session
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Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Provisional agenda and annotations

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Annotations

1. Election of officers

In accordance with resolution 2011/24 of the Economic and Social Council, in particular the terms of reference contained in the annex to the resolution, the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, at the start of the session, will elect from among its members two co-chairs, respecting geographical balance and representation. Furthermore, in accordance with the provisional rules of procedure adopted at its first session, the Committee will elect a Rapporteur.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

The items on the provisional agenda and the corresponding documentation are based on the decision adopted by the Committee at its first session and have been further reviewed by the Bureau. The organization of work is proposed by the Secretariat as a guide to assist with the management of time. At the outset of the session the Secretariat will present an oral report to the Committee on the status of the documentation. The provisional rules of procedure adopted by the Committee at its first session were reviewed by the Office of Legal Affairs, with a view to bringing them in line with the rules and general practices of the Economic and Social Council. The Office of Legal Affairs made a number of recommendations, which have been incorporated into the revised rules of procedure before the Committee. The Committee may wish to adopt the agenda and the organization of work for its second session, as well as the revised rules of procedure.

Documentation

Provisional agenda and annotations (E/C.20/2012/1)

Note by the Secretariat on the organization of work of the session[1]

Rules of procedure[1] (summary: E/C.20/2012/2)

3. Strategic consideration of future trends in geospatial information management: five-to-ten-year vision

The Committee will have before it a report on future trends in geospatial information management. At the first session of the Committee, the topic of "Strategic consideration of technological and substantive advances in geospatial and interrelated information infrastructure" was identified as an agenda item for the Committee, and a working group was encouraged to document the future trends and developments in geospatial information management. At the invitation of the Co-Chairs, the group has received written inputs from Member States and a number of experts from the geospatial community. A summary of the future trends was presented and discussed during a workshop at the margins of the Geospatial World Forum held in the Netherlands in April 2012. The Committee is invited to discuss the trends highlighted in a background paper entitled "Future trends in geospatial information management: five-to-ten-year vision". The final paper will be based on

[1] Available in the language of submission only from http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html.

the discussion of the Committee and will be presented at the Second High-level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management in Qatar in 2013.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on future trends in geospatial information management[1] (summary: E/C.20/2012/3)

4. Contribution of the Committee to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and implications of the outcomes of the Conference

The Committee will have before it a report on its contribution to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012. During the discussion of the item at its first session, the Committee stressed the need for an appropriate geospatial information infrastructure at all levels (local, national, regional, global) as a basis for accurate description, sound analysis and evidence-based decision-making on the state of the environment and ecosystems. It was also stressed that the Committee was in a unique position to act as a coordinating body to ensure that all Member States benefited from the value of geospatial information in the assessment and monitoring of sustainable development and other global challenges. The report describes the actions of the Committee to communicate to the participants of the Conference, during a side event sponsored by the Committee, the importance of geospatial information in sustainable development. The Committee is invited to take note of the geospatial information-related outcomes of the Conference and to express its views on the follow-up activities to the Conference.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the contribution of the Committee to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the implications of the outcomes of the Conference[1] (summary: E/C.20/2012/4)

5. Inventory of issues to be addressed by the Committee

The Committee will have before it a report on the inventory of issues to be addressed by the Committee at its future sessions. Prepared at the request of the Committee at its first session, the report draws upon detailed submissions through a process of global consultations and describes the inventory of issues collated and consolidated within nine thematic groups. The inventory will serve as a useful reference document to inform the scope and possible timing of the workplan for the Committee in the next five years. The Committee is requested to express its views on the adoption of the inventory of issues and to identify key priority issues and associated activities in the consideration of its future work programme.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the inventory of issues to be addressed by the Committee[1] (summary: E/C.20/2012/5)

6. Consideration of a statement of ethics for the endorsement by the global geospatial information community

The Committee will have before it a report for consideration on the start of a process to draft a statement of ethics for endorsement by the global geospatial information community. The need for a statement of ethics and supporting code of conduct for the global geospatial information profession has been raised in a number of discussions. Within the geospatial profession, there are few established guidelines, ethics or codes of conduct to provide assurances on professional practices to enhance the trust placed by the public on publicly available geospatial data. With the development of practices such as crowdsourcing and open access to information, there are acknowledged gaps in the current legal and social frameworks that provide effective regulation or guidance for the capture, use and dissemination of much of the new geospatial information. A statement of ethics will help to fill in those gaps. The Committee is invited to consider the need for a statement of ethics for the global geospatial information community and express its views on the process of its formulation.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the consideration of a statement of ethics[1] (summary: E/C.20/2012/6)

7. Development of a knowledge base for geospatial information

The Committee will have before it a report on the development of a knowledge base for global geospatial information management to be located at the United Nations. A main function of the Committee is to compile and disseminate best practices of national, regional and international bodies on geospatial information aspects in support of the establishment of geospatial infrastructures. During the consultations on an inventory of issues, the topic of "Resources and a knowledge base" was identified as one of the major issues. Building on the existing resources on the website of the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management, maintained by the Statistics Division secretariat, the Secretary-General proposes the creation of a searchable and continuously updated repository that will provide information on current practices in managing geospatial information around the world. The Committee is invited to express its views on the development of a knowledge base for geospatial information.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the development of a knowledge base for geospatial information[1] (summary: E/C.20/2012/7)

8. Study on the status of mapping in the world

The Committee will have before it a preliminary report on the status of mapping in the world. In its resolution 3, adopted at the ninth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas, held in 2009, the Conference recommended that the United Nations conduct a study on the status of mapping in the world. The survey-based study has been carried out with the support of the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing involving all official national mapping agencies in the world. The report sets out the main content of the

questionnaire, the status of the responses and the timeline of the completion of data analysis and dissemination. The Committee is invited to take note of the report and express its views on the survey-based study and possible options for reporting on the status of mapping in the world.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the study on the status of mapping in the world[1] (summary: E/C.20/2012/8)

9. Global Geodetic Reference System

The Committee will have before it a report by the Permanent Committee on GIS Infrastructure for Asia and the Pacific on the Global Geodetic Reference System. In the report, the Permanent Committee considers the growing demand for and use of positioning technology and the importance of consistent geodetic reference frameworks and positioning, including such infrastructure as the Continuously Operating Reference Station, the Global Navigation Satellite System and the Global Positioning System. In the Asia-Pacific region the infrastructure is comparatively sparse, inaccurate and difficult to access compared with other parts of the world. In general, the networks are not linked to each other or to the global reference frame, while the lack of data sharing has an impact on the accuracy and type of geodetic analysis that can be performed. The Committee is invited to take note of the report and express its views on the different options for improved positioning infrastructure to support the Global Geodetic Reference System.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Permanent Committee on GIS Infrastructure for Asia and the Pacific on the Global Geodetic Reference System[1] (summary: E/C.20/2012/9)

10. Developing a global map for sustainable development

The Committee will have before it a report on developing a global map for sustainable development, a geospatial portal to pool available information to meet urgent needs. The report highlights the Committee's commitment to the importance of managing geospatial information globally, and considers the concept that an operational global geospatial information platform of authoritative and consistent geospatial data and information should be developed to serve the needs of the global community in the areas of disaster risk reduction, humanitarian aid and the monitoring of sustainable development. Such a platform would also enable national geospatial institutional arrangements, policies, frameworks and standards to be tested and progressed in conjunction with Member States, other international organizations and the Committee's programme of work. The Committee is invited to express its views on the different options for developing a global map for sustainable development.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the development of a global map for sustainable development[1] (summary: E/C.20/2012/10)

11. Special reports on regional and thematic activities

The Committee will have before it for information five special reports on regional and thematic activities. The regional reports are presented by the Permanent Committee on GIS Infrastructure for Asia and the Pacific, the Permanent Committee for Geospatial Data Infrastructure of the Americas, the Committee on Development Information, Science and Technology of the Economic Commission for Africa, and EuroGeographics with input from Eurostat. The Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies will submit a report on behalf of the professional associations and groups. The Committee is invited to take note of the reports.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting special reports on regional and thematic activities[1] (E/C.20/2012/11)

12. Provisional agenda and dates for the third session of the Committee

The Committee will have before it the draft provisional agenda for its third session and the list of documents to be submitted under each item. The Committee will also have before it a proposal for the dates of the third session. The Committee is invited to discuss and adopt the provisional agenda and entrust the Bureau with its finalization.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for the third session of the Committee[1]

13. Report of the Committee on its second session

The Committee will receive a draft summary on the key decisions taken during the second session to be reflected in the report on its second session. The Committee is invited to entrust the Rapporteur with finalizing the report, which will be submitted to the Economic and Social Council.